



W@T@Rw@Y@S

Natural History Coastal Adventures

FALL 2014

2014 quotes from you...

"A truly wonderful adventure to an amazing part of the world. Humpbacks, eagles, orcas, dolphins, bears, First Nations, forest walks – everything was wonderful. Wolves – extraordinary."

A. & G. LH –
Perth, Australia

"This is the biggest treat I've ever given myself and I saw it as a grand adventure. Far exceeded my expectations."

BM – Vermont, USA

"Absolutely, unbelievably good! From the very first salad, to the surprise snacks, the flavourful lunches and divine dinners. Her energy, recipe creativity and smiles were such a joy. She shared her love of food."

AL – Calgary

"As two novice wilderness explorers, we were simply blown away with the adventure..."

L & D Smith – BC

"I liked the relationship the crew had with the Haida Watchmen that made us feel less like tourists – more like extended family."

BK – Ontario

"Trip was a total, unabashed, wonderful success!"

W&K D –
Michigan, USA

Inspiring!

The Bluewater trips I did this summer as Captain were quite simply inspirational. After 27 years operating trips along this coast I have seen amazing wildlife, but on each trip this summer, I saw things I have never seen before (or only once before): sperm whales off the islands of Haida Gwaii; transient orca chasing a Dall's porpoise then catching it right in front of us; my first wolf pups under the careful eye of an adult guardian; and then a Spirit bear with two black cubs!

It is amazing to experience nature in abundance, to know that there are still places in the world where large mammals are thriving. Not that we can take the spectacular coast of British Columbia and Southeast Alaska for granted or ignore the conservation threats that certainly exist. But simply put, these Bluewater Adventures trips are about immersing oneself in nature, feeling the quiet and peacefulness, getting away from "civilization" and technology. Seeing whales across the horizon, or multiple bears spread out up the river is amazing, but the real magic is the "one on one" experience. Looking into the eyes of a bear cub, gazing into the clear water to see a whale suspended just below the surface, or just simply seeing a Spirit bear fishing amid the emerald green forest: it is about the quality of the experience.



Jenny Varley

At the end of each trip, we ask our guests to complete an evaluation. I read each one and value every comment. I am heartened to see that these trips inspire you, educate you and provide you with the trip of your dreams. Know that your feedback is going to lead to new bath mats for the showers, strategically placed handrails and new bunk steps in the cabins.

We are celebrating another wonderful season – our 40th! I am proud of what we have accomplished and the credit must go to our incredible staff. We do these trips with gratitude – for all that nature gives us, for all that our wonderful guests bring to the trips and for the supporters we have in each of the small communities along the coast.

Capt. Randy Burke – Director

Raincoast Conservation and Bluewater Adventures

We are thrilled to announce our second Conservation Voyage with the [Raincoast Conservation Foundation](#). Join Raincoast's senior scientist, Paul Paquet **June 18-24** to experience one of the wonders of the rainforest coast – the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary and the outer islands of Chatham Sound. The Khutzeymateen valley (pronounced Kootzie-Mateen) was the first area in Canada protected specifically for grizzly bears and their habitat; and is now home to an amazing 60 grizzlies.



Dr. Paquet is an internationally recognized authority on mammalian carnivores

Raincoast scientist Dr. Paul Paquet joins us June 18-24

and brings a wealth of knowledge including seminal studies of bears and wolves of the British Columbia coast. Learn about the interface



Floating silently while a grizzly feeds on sedges

K. Ochsenbauer

between ecological theory and conservation, and the incredible work Raincoast Conservation is doing to protect large carnivores throughout the Great Bear Rainforest. Please [contact us](#) for more information.

Need More Info?

If you want to find out more details about a particular trip please contact the Bluewater office. Call toll-free 1-888-877-1770 or email at explore@bluewateradventures.ca.

Erin, Randy and Debra are happy to answer your questions and share their experience.

Photo Contest

Calling all photographers!

Bluewater Adventures is searching for 4 trip photos taken by you to include in our 2015 collection of gift card sets. We are accepting entries until December 31, 2014 and the 4 "winning shots" will go to print in time for the 2015 season.

Please contact us for more information.

40 Year Reflections

"I first started in 1980 with Bluewater Adventures (then Whitewater Adventures). So, what kept me on the boats for the next 20 years? Incomparable old growth forests, wildlife, ancient cultures, and stories set the stage for a truly unique adventure every single time. Even more than that I think that what truly kept me coming back were my fellow crew and all of the new people I met on each trip. The crew has the unique opportunity to take what this incredible coast offers and weave it together to create a trip to remember forever. I loved being a part of that."

Pat Gerlach – Long time cook and office manager



The new Haida totem pole at Windy Bay is the first raised in 130 years

Sherry Kirkvold

"I came from a family that loved the sea. If I couldn't smell the sea air, I would be thinking of how to get back to it. At the end of a teaching year it was Bluewater Adventures that fulfilled this desire. I delighted in sharing my excitement in exploring the last great North American wilderness, the northwest coast of British Columbia and Alaska. I've seen the sea inspire guests to capture these moments in writing, painting, carving and photography. It's been 40 years since the first cruise on Illyria, then Solskin and finally Island Roamer. During that time I realized these cruises never ended. They were played out, over and over again in the quietest days of fall and winter. I still dream of shipping on board the Roamer and untying the mooring lines."

Capt. Rod MacVicar

"The sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever"



Island Roamer under sail amidst the beauty and calm of the "Inside Passage"

Debra Fontaine



Lindsay James

A black-footed albatross glides by on the west coast of Haida Gwaii

"The Island Roamer was steaming west, out to the continental shelf, and we couldn't have asked for fairer weather. Suddenly, a yell from the wheelhouse: "Albatross!" The massive bird gently turned to cross our bow, and presented us a view of its entire body; the perfect photo opportunity. Hardly 5 minutes had passed, when a second yell from the wheel house was heard, louder this time. "Sperm whale!" The long black body had just surfaced 200 yards from us and was drifting slowly forward, across our path. The blow hole, the dorsal fin, the long deep back furrows, we could see it all. And it was big. For a full minute, we watched in awe, as this mysterious, graceful creature hyperventilated before diving below the surface once again. We were all left with a mix of disbelief, wonder, and serendipity. It is moments like these that make each day, week and season with Bluewater Adventures memorable. This year was no exception. And yet, season after season, it's always the people that surprise most.

The new, young, and passionate generation of Haida, practicing age old traditions; the kind and generous passengers, with unwavering enthusiasm; and of course, the crew, with their lively company and quiet competence.

Mat Janeway – Mate



Mat Janeway

A male sperm whale surfaces nearby on a serene west coast day

"I was sitting in the skiff with Fred Sharp, the Humpback whale researcher, two years ago, watching some spectacular bubble-net feeding. After

some discussion we agreed that for us, being north and on the water is simply where we need to be. When

summer arrives, we know this is where we will be."

Passenger Julie Jarnagin has completed over 30 voyages with Bluewater. She is particularly fond of the whales of Southeast Alaska.



Jenny Varley

Bubble-net feeding humpback whales lunge to the surface with mouths agape



Special 2015 Trips

Wild West Coast

Island Odyssey returns to the west coast of Haida Gwaii **June 26-July 3** in conjunction with the Burke Museum and art historian, Dr. Robin Wright. This trip is not for the faint of heart. The weather is unpredictable and the itinerary exposed to the open Pacific Ocean. As Shackleton promised his crew, "honour and recognition in case of success". We plan to visit old Haida villages, explore wild beaches, and enjoy the incredible beauty of this rugged coast – a place few will ever visit.



Ancient totem poles still stand in remote, old Haida villages

Rachel Elliot

For the Love of Plants – First Nations Ecological Knowledge.

We are delighted to have Dr. Nancy Turner, University of Victoria professor and noted ethnobotanist, along with Haida elder, Barb Wilson with us again **July 1-8** in Gwaii Haanas. Nancy just published her latest amazing book 'Ancient Pathways, Ancestral Knowledge'. Barb just retired from Parks Canada and her role as Haida Culturalist.

Birders Unite!

Birdlife Canada's Christopher DiCorrado returns to lead an amazing voyage at the height of the bird nesting season in Gwaii Haanas – **May 20-28**. Experience the wonder of nesting ancient murrelets, Peale's peregrine falcons, unique sub-species of heron

and owl, black-footed albatross and the highest concentration of nesting bald eagles in Canada. You don't have to be a birder to enjoy this fabled archipelago at its wildlife best.

Southeast Alaska

After the tremendous Southeast Alaska voyage with Calgary

naturalist and radio personality Brian Keating last July, bookings are already filling in. Join us **July 17-27** at the height of summer for the best whales, bears, glaciers (and weather) you can imagine. We will visit both Pack Creek (on Admiralty Island) and Anan Creek – for three days of second-to-none bear viewing.

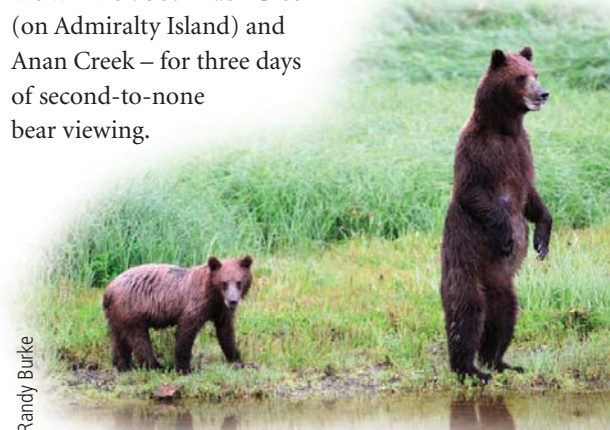


Jenny Varley

A transient female orca and calf eating a salmon



It is wonderful to get ashore to hike above the Dawe's glacier



Randy Burke

The Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary – Word is Getting Out!

After National Geographic named the Khutzeymateen as one of "the Best Summer Trips in 2014", Island Odyssey began her season by hosting, along with Hawk Air, 11 travel trade partners from overseas on a Familiarization Tour of BC's north coast. We packed

seven days of adventure into five, complete with kayaking with river otters,

In May & June, grizzly bears leave hibernation and gather to feed and mate along the shore of the Khutzeymateen Sanctuary

bow-riding Dall's porpoise, orca, exploring wild flower-studded outer islands and seeing grizzlies in the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary. This is the best way to explain to people what Bluewater Adventures is all about – by providing them with a fountain of information (and inimitable experiences) that will stick with them for a lifetime.

"Your staff is amazing and an absolute asset to the company. We always say that a company is only as good as the staff and Bluewater Adventures is a perfect example of this. Everyone from first mate to chef to captain to guide to reservations and sales people deliver more than is expected in your organisation. What a wonderful team you have put together."

Karryn Pappenfus – Adventure Destinations, Australia



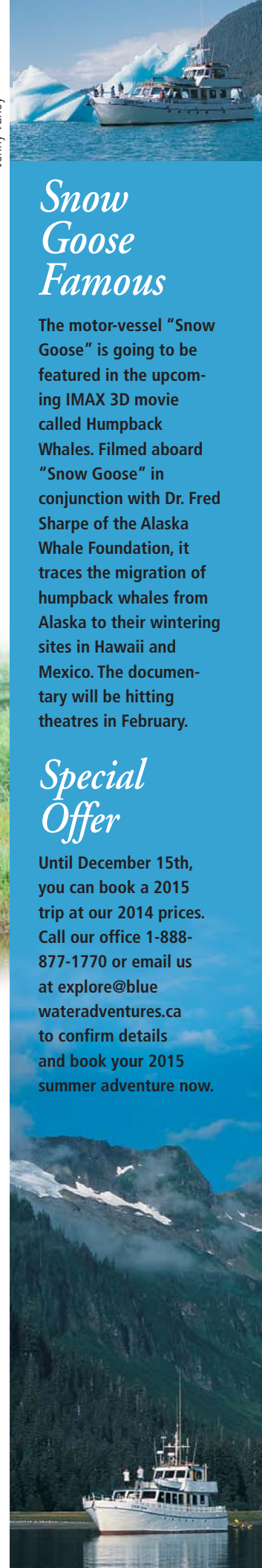
Lindsay Janes

Snow Goose Famous

The motor-vessel "Snow Goose" is going to be featured in the upcoming IMAX 3D movie called Humpback Whales. Filmed aboard "Snow Goose" in conjunction with Dr. Fred Sharpe of the Alaska Whale Foundation, it traces the migration of humpback whales from Alaska to their wintering sites in Hawaii and Mexico. The documentary will be hitting theatres in February.

Special Offer

Until December 15th, you can book a 2015 trip at our 2014 prices. Call our office 1-888-877-1770 or email us at explore@bluewateradventures.ca to confirm details and book your 2015 summer adventure now.





N Bowes

Our Cumulative Impact – the Hidden Picture

We love the experience of being “one on one” with a wild animal. It is simple, intimate, joyful. And when it is just us or just a small group we trust our impact is minimal. Staring through the lens of our camera there is the urge to get closer, to want to feel the presence of the animal. And if the bear, the whale, or wolf continues its same behaviour we commonly judge that there has been little disturbance. But sometimes, animals (or humans) are surprised and despite ‘good’ intentions, run or swim off. Perhaps this is the downside, one of the risks of ecotourism – we all hope the positives of

Jenny Varley



educating people and giving them direct experiences of nature outweighs the impacts we are having.

And it is difficult to see our impacts... For example, each Fall bears must “pack on the pounds” in order to survive their winter hibernation. Displacing them or simply getting in their way affects feeding success. We may justify our impact with “oh, he’ll be back in an hour”, but we have to remember we aren’t the only humans who visit. What if every day this bear is displaced? How many lost pounds does that represent? What is the cumulative impact?

Perhaps it can be compared to our passion for driving automobiles. We tell ourselves “I’m just having this small impact with my car.” The problem is the cumulative impact that millions of us together are creating. And this is why every individual small effort makes a difference; and why Bluewater guides constantly use their professional experience to judge what is close and what is too close – and need to err on the side of caution to ensure our actions are sustainable.

We regularly see and hear coastal wolves on our Great Bear Rainforest and Northern Vancouver Island trips

2014 quotes from you...

“The crew made this trip a very relaxed, enjoyable event – the swan analogy fits – for us things seem effortless yet there required a massive amount of energy. The knowledge of the crew and their passion to explain the wildlife, water and landscape of BC was amazing. So exemplary.”

JH – UK

“This is my seventh trip with Bluewater Adventures. When I asked myself “where do you want to be on your first day of retirement?” the first thing I thought of was standing on the bow of the boat.”

AJ – Toronto

“Orca kill, Anan bears, breaching adolescent humpback and bubblenetters. Natural history and laughter, and food. A hit on all levels, people, events, nature. We want to do it all over again.”

T & C G – Calgary

Join us – We’re Social



BLUEWATER ADVENTURES

Our Planet

“We can’t infinitely take more from – or infinitely add more people to – a finite planet. While living in a world endowed with self-renewing energy, we can’t run a civilization on energy that diminishes the world. If we can get these simple things under control, I think we could be okay. Simple does not mean easy. Yet more than ever before in history, we can now understand what’s needed. But nations need to act boldly and soon. Time runs short at an accelerating pace.”

Carl Safina

Actions Speak

Bluewater Adventures undertook an environmental audit by Green Tourism Canada this year to determine how well our actions met our goals to be sustainable, environmentally responsible and actively contributing to local communities and First Nations along the coast. We were pleased to receive the Gold Standard. Now Green Tourism UK has selected us as a finalist for both the “GoldStar Award” and the “People’s Choice Award.”



Save Trees, Receive the Newsletter by Email

If you would prefer to receive “Waterways” by email please let us know.



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